

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## The Story of a Flower

Where are all the roses and jasmine flowers that have been unplanned from all the soft tresses of the most beautiful women in the world? You do not know—neither do I. Moon-madness, soft eyes and very probably the lack of something better to do, more frequently the latter, is the cause of this foolishness—shall we say—parting from blossoms that have been worn in your hair to an ardent young man talking nonsense on the bottom step of the side porch.

Just as present the girls are not wearing real roses in their hair. They bedeck themselves with great, gorgeous silk poppies and such that would defy the ravages of time and might assuredly also adorn the nice young man's sister, should you happen to bestow it upon him. But you probably would not give it to him. And it was only a little while ago that you used to fasten a thorny rose in your hair; sometimes it pulled it all down and again it looked very sweet, and perhaps somebody told you so, or else they forgot about it.

Aspen of all the dead flowers that have lived in the sweet curls of ladies fair, are sometimes treasured, but so often you have forgotten entirely what they mean. Faithless lady mine, that raised your purple eyes to the red rose in his buttonhole and pinned it into your own belt; man, as faithless as she, she got around the corner put it into your lapel, one short hour ago! Some men really and truly keep the flowers. Once upon a time a man took a girl for a nice, long drive, and by way of making conversation the girl pinned violets on his coat. He came to call the next morning with the dear little dead flowers sagging from the pin, but I am not so sure that it wasn't merely that he forgot to throw them away. Another "once upon a time" there was a girl that wrote in her diary: "This scent of loquacious blossoms will live as long as I live." And there by the written words is pasted the merest wisp of the flower, and the girl that I know has turned her laughing eyes to mine and said: "Who on earth do you suppose I meant?" I was in New England that summer, but there were three awfully nice men—"and she has forgotten about the flower and the perfume of a forgotten affection and remembers only how many men asked her for the 'pomp.'" Of course, from the girl's standpoint, it is a terrible blow to her poetic sense when she struggles unexpectedly upon a very unromantic maid, carrying past her in the trash the identical flower that she so tenderly bestowed on the most dashing swain of the house party on the night previous. The maid is scarcely to blame; she is only cleaning up.

But there once was a man that did keep a flower, just a field flower, too. It was at the White Sulphur Springs, and she was very beautiful, and there was witchery in the night, and he has written the story of the flower in his beautiful ballad.

"Withered and old, with my fragrance fled,  
A ghost am I from a summer land.  
Where all the flowers of my day are dead,  
And yet I wish I could understand."

What it means when one talks of a life's despair!

Why over my ashes the tears should flow!

And where is that girl with the silken hair?

Who kissed me one summer night long ago?"

BRENT WHITE.

Summer Porch Comforts.

The porch of the summer cottage is the real lounging place for the family, and it should be made as comfortable as possible with all manner of inexpensive conveniences. If the master up a swing couch by means of a set of single bed springs, four stout ropes, of the house has the ingenuity to rig and a can of paint, he sure to have one of those contrivances. Otherwise have a couch of rattan with an adjustable headpiece, but, lacking the money to afford that a canvas army cot may be substituted, as when its wooden legs are painted it will look very well indeed.

Next come the lounging chairs, which if low and roomy need not be expensive, provided they be prettily painted in white, with pale green or pink or yellow, and have cushioned backs. What make so many cheap porch chairs uncomfortable is their hard backs, which should be covered with adjustable cushions filled with pine needles—a filling which is cheap and can be periodically replaced. But if cushioned chairs are considered unsanitary or disliked for any other reason, the porch furnisher should get a collection of canvas steamer chairs.

The porch table should be a substantial affair, which can not be blown over by high wind, and large enough to serve a meal upon. Better than rattan or splint is the attractively painted kitchen table, whose legs have been amputated a third of their length, so that its surface shall not be above the level of the knees of a person sitting in a low chair.

A tall screen of the four-foot order is always a convenience on a porch, as with it any specially disordered corner may be instantly concealed at the approach of unexpected visitors. Have the frame of this screen of hickory wood so that it shall not easily blow over, paint it in the color scheme of the porch furnishings and cover it with whatever fabric is to be the material for the dozens of oblong, square, and round pillows which are to be everywhere in evidence.

White Silk Stockings.

When washing white silk stockings, use tepid water and pure white soap. Rub gently with the hands.

Rinse in cold water and add a little bluing to the last rinse. This keeps the stockings from becoming yellow.

Starching Clothes.

To make a garment very stiff dry it before starching. Add one tablespoon powdered gum arabic reduced to a liquid in one-half cup of boiling water to the stiff starch mixture. Dry as quickly as possible.

When using gum arabic as a starch substitute take four tablespoons of pulverized gum arabic to one pint of cold water and three tablespoons of alcohol. Put the water and gum arabic in a saucepan and set into another saucepan containing boiling water. When dissolved, strain through cheesecloth, cool, and the alcohol, pour into a bottle, cork and get away for future use. The alcohol acts as a preservative, and this mixture can be kept for any length of time.



CHIC AND ORIGINALITY DISTINGUISH THESE CHARMING GOWNS.

L'Art de la Mode.

## LINGERIE BLOUSES SIMPLE BUT SMART

Now is the dressmaker's strenuous season, and in all the workrooms long hours and frantic haste are the order of the day. For the ready-made frocks, however, the heyday of the season is past; for several weeks clearance sales have been tempting women to buy things that they do not actually need. These sales have begun rather earlier than usual, and many a woman had no more than bought her spring outfit when she began to see the same models offered at prices considerably lower than those she had paid. A trying experience that, yet a woman fears to wait too long, lest things will have been picked over too thoroughly, and only shopworn underthings will have survived.

Apparently there is little danger of such a catastrophe even now when the sales are on. Pretty summer frocks are legion, and perhaps in no class of these is the improvement in ready-made models so apparent as in the simplest and cheapest. There is still in the cheaper grades of tub frocks an effort on the part of the manufacturer to give one too much for one's money—pink cheap trimmings on coarse materials, but it is possible to-day to buy gingham, percales, lawns, linens, etc., absolutely simple in design, admirable in finish and detail and fair in quality, for amazingly low prices. So pretty and so reasonable in price are these little frocks that many women have given up the spring sewing which was a tradition in almost every home, and seamstresses complain of a great falling off in their clientele.

There are neat and attractive gingham morning frocks—house frocks the shop folk call them—that sell for less than \$3, and for \$5 or \$6 it is possible to buy tub frocks that, while not of fine material, are exceedingly effective. All the way up the scale values are good, but of course when one comes to better materials and more exclusive designs the prices are correspondingly higher.

Good linen frocks are never very

## Clothing for Trip Abroad

The girl or woman who plans a short trip abroad should not burden herself with trunks and bags. This is a most common error unless one has crossed before and has learned from experience, or has hearkened to the advice of friends.

The best plan is to pack as you travel, instead of traveling already packed. And you will be glad if you follow this advice, glad not only when you are traveling from place to place, but glad as well when you get back home again.

Why take with you a quantity of underwear and dress accessories, says the Woman's Home Companion, when in Paris you can buy both the underwear and the little dress novelties much cheaper and in much newer designs than here in America?

Why burden yourself with the care of a hat-trunk, for instance, when there is no place in the whole world like Paris in which to buy the smartest and ahead-of-the-style hats at the least cost?

A suit case and a steamer trunk are all the luggage that you will require, and many times you will be far better off if the steamer trunk is in storage and you and your suit case go off alone.

You will find that the prop of your wardrobe is your tailored suit. This is the suit you wear when you go abroad the steamer in an emergency you transform it into a luncheon costume by removing the coat and wearing the skirt with a costume blouse. You travel in it, and you tramp in it, and therefore, because of its usefulness, you must be most particular that it is made smart in style and of good wearing material.

A steamer coat is perhaps the chief essential of your short European trip wardrobe. You live in it on deck, and frequently it must be in dual capacity of stormcoat and theatre wrap.

Your walking boots must be comfortable. The Old World is full of pitfalls for the high heels. Home is the best place for it; therefore leave a pair of stout, well-made, and very comfortable walking boots; a pair of bedroom slippers to wear with your lounging gown, which, by the way, must not be of a very thin material; and you can manage with one pair of slippers—pumps are the best, because they will look all right with your dinner frock, and yet you can wear them on almost any occasion.

## Summer Mourning Comfortable Yet Correct

There is no reason why the woman who mourns should not be as comfortable in her black garb as her sister who revels in summer pastels. The days of stuffy bombazines and wool mourning fabrics have passed, and thin silks, crepes, dull finished black mohair and various cotton and silk weaves are at the command of the wearer of mourning.

Black, at best, is a warm color to look at, and unfortunately the woman robed in mourning habiliments is often depressingly warm in suggestion on a broiling summer day; but there is no reason why she should be warm in reality, and she is likely to appear much more smartly dressed in her trim, thin black than others in crumpled linens or carelessly fitting tub frocks.

The wearer of mourning will wisely buy few well-made things of very best material, rather than a quantity of cheaper clothes, for only the finest materials are distinguished in black, and it should always be kept in mind that mourning wear, because it may not make any appeal with charm of color, must be distinguished and elegant to be pleasing. There is no getting around the fact that it costs more to dress in mourning than in colors, but the mourning period is short, after all, and most women prefer to expend a little more at this time, taking excellent care of the few clothes purchased, than to go about looking frumpish or pitiable in cheap black.

There are certain conventions which must be observed if one's mourning is to be correct. Be it remembered that mourning is not deep simply because it is black, but because of its adherence to the regulations that govern deep mourning. So long as it is built of proper materials and conforms to certain rules, first mourning may be unutterably "deep" yet at the same time quite perceptibly coquettish. The French have a knack of making mourning wear more full of grace and

## For the Gardener

Fortunate is the lover of flowers, whose grounds can boast of a brook or pool, so that a water garden may be planted.

The stream flowing through sun and shadow affords moisture-craving flowers a home in which to thrive and flourish. Birds find a cool place to drink and bathe upon its sloping margin.

One cannot deny the charm added to a garden by a small pond.

It is best for a pool to be rimmed with cement or stone. If plants are crowded close to its edge the size of the pool is apparently diminished.

In a small pond plant a single variety of water plant. The pond lily, white and fragrant, is best for this purpose.

If, however, the basin can be made larger, the water hyacinth or water poppy may be added.

A lake which is a dozen feet or more across should have a variety of pond lilies, the pale yellow, pink and white. When the pond is shallow, with turfy banks, bamboo and papyrus will thrive luxuriously. The latter grows four feet in height and resembles a forest of miniature palms.

For the boggy shore there are great possibilities in the marsh matigold, pitcher plant, arrowweed, iris, cardinal flower and day lily.

Care must be observed not to obscure the water itself through overcrowding. Its sky-reflecting value has a beauty entirely its own, and not to be ignored.

A natural pond may easily be widened or filled; but if artificial, it must be prepared with pebbles and earth before the water plants will grow.

When cement, mortar, paint stains or other artificial substances are employed in the lining of the basin, the water should be allowed to stand for a week, with frequent changes, before the plants are introduced.

Water plants thrive best in warm, quiet water. For this reason delay planting until the summer days have lost their lingering chilliness.

Each plant should be anchored by a stone and the water gently admitted. This should be raised at the rate of a foot a week. In this manner the plants are not disturbed.

Many of the floating plants—water poppy, parrot's feather, water snowflake and water hyacinth—spread so rapidly they choke out the lilies. They should be thinned out each season; it does them no harm and saves the pond lilies.

The Egyptian lotus is well worth cultivating; its long-stemmed blossoms bring to our gardens a faint vision of the Nile and the pyramids.

The lotus requires space and, in the most northern countries, artificial heat.

Wherever the water plants are purchased information will be given regarding their culture and habits. If instructions are closely followed the water garden will be a picturesque addition to your estate.

Important Color Suggestions.

It means a great deal to the woman of limited income to keep in touch with the newest color schemes and combinations. Originality in this respect gives to the least expensive costume the air of having been planned by a good designer. An evening frock that is full of suggestion is as simple as possible in design, but raised far above the commonplace by its original color scheme. The foundation is a flash-color satin, and the skirt, round length and just touching the ground, is velvet in chiffon to match the satin. Covering the bodice and reaching in a straight tunic to the knees is a drape of Wedgewood-blue chiffon. Around the edges of the tunic is a laurel-leaf design in crystal beads and bugs. This is introduced in a straight, round belt, and a flat, double sash of chiffon. The ends of the sash are embroidered in crystal laurel wreaths, and hang below the knee on the left side of the front.

Black is much used as a trimming or for accessories in the new frocks. Many of the taffeta afternoon gowns show touches of it. One model in a shimmering, with a panner skirt, has a bow of black satin in the center of the front of the skirted hem, and there is a straight grille of black satin. The waist shows none of the taffeta, but is entirely of white chiffon over a silk net lace.

Across the bust the black again appears in a three-inch band under the chignon and embroidered in skeleton design in silver thread. A plume of the bodice lace extends down under the black belt to the edge of the panner puff.

A great deal of black is used on a frock of piqueon-egg blue taffeta, which gives excellent suggestions for doing over an old frock that is too straight and scant in the skirt for the new fashions, and panners. The skirt has an overtrim of black chiffon, which is put on slightly all around the waist. It is attached to a piece of silk ribbon binding and tacked on to the taffeta, so that it may be used on any skirt without taking it apart. The chignon falls to within a few inches of the hem, and is quite unstudied in shape, following the line of the hem. The joining of the chignon at the waist is covered by a taffeta belt and sash. The belt is a straight piece of taffeta, about six inches wide, hemmed top and bottom, and shaped here and there with feather-eroding. There are two sashes falling from this, each set in with five plait, one attached at the upper, the other at the lower end. Each is faced in silk and weighted. The two hang at the middle back, over the black chignon, and serve to give the fashionable bouffant effect. The bodice has set-in elbow sleeves, finished by a turnback cuff of silk and trimmed with one large jet button. At the back of the neck there is a collar of taffeta edged at the bottom with a single strip of black ribbon. The collar, as it comes forward, shapes into long, draped revers, forming a deep V neck. This is lined in with folds of white tulle, a delightful arrangement for summer.

Dressy Short Coats.

To be worn with lingerie and lace dresses are the quaint little taffeta coats. They are trimmed with richings of self material, are short and cut in novel form, sometimes with coat tails or sash ends finishing the back. Both light and dark colors are used in their construction.